

## Message Text

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43

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:FTUMMINIA:BABS

APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS

DOD/OASD/ISA/IA:CAPT. MAY (DRAFT)

ARA/RPP:JFKING (INO)

ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER

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R 261600Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

INFO SECDEF

CMDT COAST GUARD

CNO

SECTRANSPORTATION A"- "-

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 263608

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TD, US

SUBJECT: OMEGA TRINIDAD PHASEOUT

REF: STATE 249558

1. REFTEL ADVISED OF DELAY IN DECISION ON FUTURE REQUIRE-  
MENT FOR OMEGA TRINIDAD BEYOND 30 SEPT 77.

2. IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT AN OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENT  
EXISTS FOR OMEGA TRINIDAD THROUGH CALENDAR YEAR 1980.  
THIS REQUIREMENT IS BASED UPON THE FACT THAT OMEGA ARGEN-  
TINA AND LIBERIA ARE NOT PROVIDING PREDICTED COVERAGE  
PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC AND EASTERN UNITED  
STATES, MAKING OMEGA NAVIGATION WITHOUT THE USE OF THE  
TRINIDAD STATION IMPOSSIBLE. POOR COVERAGE HAS ALSO BEEN  
EXPERIENCED IN THE CARIBBEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN AREAS.  
MOST CRITICALLY AFFECTED ARE AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS, COMMER-  
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CIAL AND MILITARY.

3. EXTENDING OMEGA TRINIDAD WOULD SERVE TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE IN THE SYSTEM UNTIL THE COVERAGE PROBLEMS CAN BE RESOLVED.

4. THE OMEGA SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO USE 8 STATIONS WORLD-

WIDE, AND THERE ARE CURRENTLY 8 STATIONS OPERATING. OMEGA TRINIDAD HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED A TEMPORARY STATION AND WILL BE REQUIRED TO CLOSE DOWN WHEN THE 8TH PERMANENT STATION BECOMES OPERATIONAL IN AUSTRALIA IN 1980.

5. IT IS EMPHASIZED THAT OMEGA IS AN INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION SYSTEM, NOT A MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH THE NAVY IS CURRENTLY THE OMEGA MANAGER, THE SYSTEM IS OPERATED BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD, FREQUENTLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH HOST COUNTRY PERSONNEL. PLANS ARE NOW BEING FINALIZED FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE U.S. PORTION OF THE OMEGA SYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING RESPONSIBILITIES FROM THE DEPT OF THE NAVY TO THE DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION.

6. WE ARE STUDYING THE FEASIBILITY OF SEEKING AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES WHICH WOULD PERMIT CONTINUED OMEGA OPERATION AS A COAST GUARD FACILITY UNTIL END OF CY 1980.

7. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEW ON THE DECISION BY THE NAVY TO ASK FOR CONTINUATION OF OMEGA TRINIDAD AS WELL AS ITS FORECAST AS TO WHAT PROBLEMS WE MAY EXPECT TO ENCOUNTER IN NEGOTIATING FOR THIS EXTENSION WITH THE GOTT. KISSINGER

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